



Virginia Ocean Planning Kick-off Meeting

June 28, 2012

Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Final Agenda

- 10:30 Welcome and introductions (McKay)
- Virginia CZM Team
 - Monmouth University Team
 - All attendees
- 10:45 Why ocean planning...? A chronology of events (McKay)
- Need identified by Pew Ocean Commission in 2003 and US Ocean Commission in 2004 (increasing demands on ocean, decreasing health of ocean)
 - Regional ocean partnerships; Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean- MARCO (2008); National Ocean Policy (2010); Regional Planning Bodies (2012)
- 11: 00 What is MARCO and what has it been doing? (McKay/MacDonald/Odell)
- MARCO's organization and priorities
 - VA CZM funds development of state portal (Coastal GEMS) and regional GIS portal
 - NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Grant to the Monmouth Team's project
 - stakeholder engagement efforts throughout Mid-Atlantic
 - data compilation and tools: MARCO Mapping and Planning Portal demonstration
 - Questions?
- 11:25 Next Steps for Virginia CZM and MARCO (McKay/Meade)
- 5 year ocean planning grant from NOAA (Oct 2012 through Sep 2016)
 - July 10-12 Participatory GIS workshops on recreational uses – E. Shore
 - Demonstration of E-beam technology for collecting data from ocean users
 - Assisting with Regional Planning Body's November or December Workshop
- 11:40 Initial Discussion - what are each sector's general priorities and/or concerns for ocean planning off Virginia's coast?
- Representatives from each sector (Energy, Ports & Navigation, Commercial Fishing, Recreational Fishing, Military/NASA; Conservation, Recreation/Tourism, Local Government, and Academia) will have an opportunity to convey initial thoughts
- 12:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 Break-out in four groups by sectors:

1. Ports/Navigation/Military
2. Commercial and Recreational Fishing
3. Conservation/Recreation/Tourism
4. Energy/Local Government

Each group will have a facilitator and note taker and will discuss the following:

- Next steps as to how your sector would like to engage in this process and be updated
- Best techniques for obtaining data from your sector.
- Create list of additional Virginia ocean stakeholders who should be consulted for input on areas offshore of Virginia that are important to them (a form will be provided to each participant)
- Begin to describe your sector's current and future spatial needs and goals

1:45 Reconvene for reports back by sector

2:05 Additional group discussion & wrap-up of next steps

2:30 Adjourn

	Ports/Navigation Military	Commercial/ Recreational Fishing	Conservation/ Recreation/Tourism	Energy/Local Government
Facilitator	Tony MacDonald	Todd Janeski	Jay Odell	Angela Neilan
Note Taker	Virginia Witmer	Beth Polak	Nick Meade	Shep Moon



This project is funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA11NOS4190122 (FY 11 Task 95.01) of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

Meeting Notes

Initial discussion at 11:40

Is fishing around wind farms going to be allowed?

- No known restrictions
- Collaborative planning will create forum to better address this question

Seasonal considerations – can they be addressed in MARCO portal?

- Yes, to some degree – temporal attributes as well
- MARACOOS collects daily – challenge is to merge MARACOOS data with MARCO's static planning data
- Seasonal cycles are changing for fish, birds, marine mammals, etc.

How will we know if when/we have complete data? What's our measure for completeness of data?

- We never have complete and perfectly up to date data but we must make decisions everyday based on the best available data
- We have more data now and more readily accessible data than we ever have
- Sources of data are always published on the portal

A request was made to put the morning's presentation on the VA CZM website.

Can MARCO portal link to bordering regions?

- We have the same portal developer as New England does so the two systems link very well. The South Atlantic is just starting their effort.
- Yes, the MARCO portal links to other regions and individual state portals as well as national ocean data portals.

Break-out Group Reports at 1:45

Ports/Navigation/Military

How would your sector like to engage in this process and be updated?

	Coast Guard	DOD/OSD	USACE	Virginia Port Authority	NOAA Office of Coastal Survey	NASA Wallops Flight Facility	Fugro Atlantic	US Navy
Peer review of data	x		x	x		x		x
Provide periodic input/feedback formally or informally	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Provide/obtain additional data		x	x		x	x	x	x
Identifying and or contacting others		x	x	x	x	x		x
Willing to participate in and help with convening meeting/workshop		x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Additional VA ocean stakeholders who should be consulted for input:

- North Carolina? What is impacting our region?
- Other sources of information include Virginia Pilot's Association, Capt. Bill Cofer; and, Virginia Maritime Association, David White

Your sector's current and future spatial needs and goals:

- Automatic Identification System (AIS) ship data is gross – conclusions can be drawn but we see just lines – this data needs to provide more detail such as type of vessel, size of vessel, intervals/frequency of route travel per day/per month. Some vessels do not have AIS on board and we are only capturing a third of the traffic. Smaller vessels particularly need to be more visible.
- Current search and rescue density areas as compared to other uses of the area. Are instances going to intensify or shift? Coast Guard needs to know whether resources would need to be reallocated.
- Coast Guard sees need for tracking information for vessels under 300 gross tons – USA and USN shipping route data. Noted that completion of Panama Canal expansion in 2014 will certainly result in an increase in shipping, fishing and recreational use of the ocean over the next 30 years. Also interested in changes in migratory patterns of marine life – birds and fish.

- Navy generally concerned about expansion of offshore energy areas into traditional testing/training/operations areas. Navy needs to know areas of electromagnetic interference and frequencies.
- DOD needs data about acoustic emissions from offshore renewable energy technology.
- DOD has operation areas – 35,000 feet and down to the seabed - that will need to shift and needs to maintain some flexibility to do this and are getting more restricted.
- NASA has rocket launch aircraft over-flight requiring clear zones free of surface obstructions and is concerned about increase in traffic. When flight planning needs to be able to identify any uses of nearby areas that take place with some regularity. Fishing boats in fouling areas is a very important issue to address. May need a defined area vessels should not enter during certain periods.
- USACE – need to be sure that placement areas for dredge materials are not obstructed. USACE concerned about changes in uses of the ocean that would affect dredging operations if dredges need to alter routes or disposal areas have to be relocated, such as cable lines across placement areas and federal channels. Needs to know borrow areas where sand is harvested offshore for beach nourishment projects and potential sand resource areas.
- Virginia Port Authority expects increased commercial container and bulk cargo (coal) vessel activity. Vessel call frequency and size are expected to increase as a result of opening of the wider Panama Canal and forecasted increases in cargo volume. Changes in ocean use by other sectors they expect may affect them includes wind and oil/gas development, changes in military ranges and training areas and marine mammal migratory patterns and time of year restrictions.
- NOAA Office of Coast Survey would like more and better bathymetry data sets. They would update nautical charts in support of changing ocean uses, and facilitate interagency discussions to promote beneficial ocean uses.
- Need historical shipwreck information. Comprehensive shipwreck data would be useful.
- Economic value of the use of channels – recreational use.
- There is no single authoritative dataset that shows where cables are. There is a general location for communication cables but not specific coordinates.
- Fugro Atlantic expressed that changes in other ocean uses that may affect them included military training areas, active and non-active buried pipelines, and sediment migration. They indicated a need for high density OCS water depth measurements, seafloor obstacles, wave energy, ocean currents, and known sand resources.

Additional Notes:

- Use caution when collecting data; e.g. raw data from DOD does not necessarily reflect DOD policy regarding ocean planning
- Capacity to upload to Portal?

Comments:

- Great effort! Thanks for inviting us to participate.
- Nice to get everyone together, especially enjoyed the sector breakout session.

Commercial/Recreational Fishing

How would your sector like to engage in this process and be updated?

Identify the leaders within the industries and the activities

Best opportunities for outreach

Go to users, on their time, and educate and inform them of the project and needs, have them identify the best means to interact with us, such as at a particular venue, or go to special event (eg. boat show)

Vary the communication technique (May be alternative ways to reach different users). Use email, direct personal contact, web postings, attend meetings, working with constituent leaders.

You need to get to the right people: short list of industry leaders and influential people in industry. Need to have a meeting place/time easy for them, go to them: seafood houses, bars, restaurants are typical venues for their regular meetings. They are often seeking speakers for these meetings and would provide an opportunity to gain support, share information, obtain data or verify data.

Meetings with constituents need to be structured with clear understanding of what you want to accomplish. Be prepared and anticipate their reaction. Common perceptions may include, "What are we going to lose?" "How might this affect me and my activities?" This public vetting and outreach process for ocean and coastal spatial planning is a new and novel approach which allows fisheries folks to get in on the ground floor with respect to their concerns.

Participants may perceive this initially as a threat, "what threat are you to us?" There may be resistance due to this perception, "We may not want to help government agencies initially." Working with the leaders will help facilitate their participation and sharing of information.

It will be easier to reach commercial fishers but recreational fishers will be harder to identify and contact comprehensively. It will take a concerted effort to obtain their participation. The recreational stakeholders will have both fishing and conservation-based concerns. The impact that recreational fishing has in Virginia is enormous, start with outreach to the clubs and Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) of Virginia.

Best techniques for obtaining data from your sector:

Data is available from clubs, Navy and Fisheries Commissions, but needs to be verified. Meet with them and discuss their data. Understand the uses and limitations.

VTR and VMS data need to be analyzed and linked back to the agency for oversight and interpretation. This data is critical to this exercise.

MRC may be able to assess use from the licenses but unfortunately, this does not capture all needed information. Tackle shops and marinas can be a resource for outreach. Use their post boards, speak with owners and ask for their participation.

For offshore fisheries, you need to talk to individuals, catch stats vary, need to spend a lot of time talking to people, on their turf (docks, boats, meetings, etc).

VA should consider developing a volunteer reporting system such as the one MD has. MRC would be the likely vehicle for this effort. But what does the fisherman get out of it? Incentivize the participation with awards or other freebies.

Generally people will share information: where they go to target specific species or areas.

Discovering places that have been closed will inform each sector. Data collection over time will reveal patterns for dialogue with leadership

Data sharing exercise, who else will use the data? Who on the periphery are you trying to inform with this data, beyond users?

[Additional VA ocean stakeholders who should be consulted for input](#)

Fishing associations, clubs, public dock users, 4 Clubs having monthly meetings looking for speakers overlap with CCA

Identify leaders through MRC council meetings

Conservation/Recreation/Tourism

[How would your sector like to engage in this process and be updated?](#)

Charter captains will be hard to get to meetings, need to go to them.

VA Beach CBB, USFWS 5 year survey on hunting, fishing and recreation coming out soon,

We do need to pull together more meetings of groups of conservation professionals, recreational use professionals and tourism professionals.

Need to incentivize people somehow to take the time out of their workday to come to the table and provide information.

[Best techniques for obtaining data from your sector](#)

MARCO portal team has focused on identifying existing/available data as well as data gaps and feels confident that they have a good handle on it.

Sport saltwater license registry could provide very valuable information and provide opportunity to reach out to a community of great interest to this project.

DCR outdoor plan are all very important to gauging recreational use.

Pelagic bird watching occurs in the mid-Atlantic, Ned Brinkley would be a good source for this. Fisherman (commercial and charter) are also watching birds to find out where the fish are.

UNC Wilmington has marine mammal aerial survey data.

[Additional VA ocean stakeholders who should be consulted for input:](#) VA Beach Tourism

[Your sector's current and future spatial needs and goals](#)

Marine mammals in the mid-Atlantic: we have been focusing on data gaps, we have habitats that we know are important and these are shared by many other uses so mapping these multiple uses is important. Defining goals such as sustainable population metrics requires abundance and distribution data that is lacking right now. There may be areas such as Norfolk canyon where there are corals and sperm whales etc. that could justify designation as marine protected areas. There is no question that a wind development the size of the wind energy area defined off of VA beach would affect marine mammals in some way, but we are not yet sure of exactly how. Even with better data it still may not be possible to precisely define migration corridors.

We need to populate the data portal with more biological data, we need more data on marine mammal migratory pathways. Have bird data listed as a need but need to add bat data to the list.

The canyons are an obvious conservation priority, but there are other important areas closer to shore that have not been mapped as extensively.

Redundancy is the key to collecting recreational use data. It is important to capture the temporal data. Recreational fishing occurs year round but fish species change seasonally.

[Additional Notes](#)

There is an increase in recreational use on the ES as people are figuring out that the shore exists but it is happening almost entirely within the barrier island lagoon system, not further offshore.

[Comments](#)

Good job – great start to process!

Energy/Local Government

[How would your sector like to engage in this process and be updated?](#)

Email and website

[Best techniques for obtaining data from your sector](#)

Tides, Currents and Wave energy – VCERC

Oil and Gas: Updated data – BOEM

Telecommunications and Transmission Lines - Sources: BOEM, FERC, DMME

Local Govt. Data: Business Licenses, Economic Development Partnership, Private Utilities and Local Departments of Public Utilities, Dominion Power: Offshore Wind Studies

MARACOOS Website

DOE – Wind Data

Additional VA ocean stakeholders who should be consulted for input

Virginia Offshore Wind Coalition, Offshore Wind Developer Collaborative, VCERC, Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority, Coastal Planning District Commission, VML/VACO/VAPA, VA 4 Wind, Maritime Association, Governor's Office – Senior Advisor on Energy

Your sector's current and future spatial needs and goals:

Time element of data, public education of public on offshore resources

Data on potential uses and conflicts

Seismic data (BOEM historic data, new data as it's available)

Transparent datasets – a starting point for future research

Clearinghouse for Data

Decision Support System – how to link the two

Additional Notes:

Share the attendee list, phone, affiliation and email

Final Comments at 1:45 and Subsequent Emails

Comment from Jeff Deem (Recreational Sportfishing): “You’ve done a wonderful job pulling this effort together. It makes me proud to be a Virginian.”

Email from Fred Engle (Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness): “Thanks for inviting us to take part in yesterday's ocean planning kick-off meeting. You all have done a lot of groundwork that has ocean planning moving in the right direction.... Look forward to working with you as Virginia's ocean planning moves forward.”

Email from Joe Atangan (Joint Staff Rep for Regional Planning Body, US Fleet Forces, Navy): “Thanks to you and your team for organizing and hosting this very productive meeting. We look forward to the continuing dialogue.”

Email from Heather Wood (Virginia Port Authority): “I wanted to follow up with you about a meeting to discuss how the VPA can assist with or provide input into the Ocean Planning Portal. I think there are some opportunities there to both enhance the portal and provide the Virginia Ports with some much needed exposure. “

Email from Nikki Rovner (The Nature Conservancy): It's amazing to see how crowded the ocean already is, with all the uses like shipping, fishing and military training going on. It's great to see Virginia leading a conversation among stakeholders about how these uses can continue while new ones like wind energy come onto the scene, at the same time that we make sure that critical ocean habitats are conserved."

Email from Peter Moore (Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System): "This is great, many thanks for expediting this [sharing of ocean planning meeting participants emails]. I met a number of people at your meeting in June whom I wish to follow up with about the MARACOOS data feeds..."